

February 26, 2023
Paul Boudreau
Hamden Tenants Union

In Support of:

House Bill 5673: AN ACT CONCERNING THE REFORMATION OF CERTAIN
TAXES AND TAX EQUITY.

Good afternoon Senator Fonfara, Representative Horn, and the distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee:

My name is Paul Boudreau and I live in Hamden.

I'm one of the CoFounders of The Hamden Tenants Union which has more than 300 members and gets bigger everyday. In addition to this I am employed by The SEIU state council to Support tenants and tenant unions statewide. We belong to Recovery For All – a statewide coalition fighting for a better future for Connecticut, bringing together more than 60 community, faith, and labor organizations.

I am testifying in strong support of House Bill 5673: An Act Concerning The Reformation Of Certain Taxes And Tax Equity. As the wealthiest state in the country, Connecticut should be a shining example for the nation where every family has what we need to live a good life. But instead we have a state where hundreds of thousands of working people are struggling to raise families, even while a handful of wealthy corporations and wealthy residents are getting even wealthier. . The scale of this crisis demands a bold response—people are suffering and our state has a responsibility, and has the resources to enact policies that provide for Connecticut families.

I have had the opportunity to speak with hundreds of Connecticut residents about the economic difficulties they have been experiencing. Most are struggling because of Runaway inflation, enormous utility rate increases, lack of pay increases, unconscionable rent increase and abusive corporate greed. Many I've spoken to have lost or are losing their housing. Most lack the funds to plop down up to 6 month rent in advance to secure another apartment. I lack the funds to plop down 6 months rent in advance.

This means that many of us are losing our housing and have nowhere to go. We are on the verge of a homelessness crisis we haven't seen the likes of since the great depression. Make no mistake. If you don't work to solve these issues now we will be back to address the much bigger issues that will come from a lack of action.

For decades we have given billions of dollars to big business while the working class pay 25% of their income in taxes. Keep in mind the wealthiest in CT only pay 6% on average. Also keep in mind that the average renter in Connecticut is spending 40% to 50% of their income on rent alone.

All we ask for is fairness. The wealthy don't pay their fair share. And we are headed into some hard times for connecticut residents that are not wealthy..the 99%

Lawmakers can fund a **Recovery For All** by passing a package that looks forward and provides relief to those who are struggling. Our proposal includes 16 sections which are broken down below:

SECTION 1: Impose a 5% surtax on capital gains, dividends, and taxable interest for individuals earning \$500,000 and joint filers earning \$1 million or more

SECTION 2: Create a Digital Advertising Tax of 10% on any company with income over \$10 billion on their digital advertising business.

SECTION 3: Making the EITC permanent

SECTION 4: Expand the child tax credit from \$250 to \$500 per child. Make it permanent and refundable

SECTION 5: Double the property tax credit to \$600; make it refundable for residents over 65

SECTION 6: Provide property tax and rental relief for Seniors - homestead exemption, refundable property tax credit, etc.

SECTION 7: Increase by 2 mills statewide property tax on commercial & residential property with market values over \$1.5 million.

SECTION 8: Raise the corporate tax rate to 11.5%

SECTION 9 & 10: Extend the surtax to 20% for those earning \$100 million or more

SECTION 11: Hire 50 in-house auditors at the Department of Revenue Services to close Connecticut's \$2.6 billion tax gap by collecting taxes and assessing penalties and fees where appropriate.

SECTION 12: Hire 45 additional wage enforcement officers at the Department of Labor to investigate wage theft and assess penalties and fees where appropriate.

SECTION 13: Establish new income tax brackets and rates for incomes over \$1 million, \$10 million and \$25 million.

9.55% - \$1 million for single/\$2 million for joint filers

10.25% - \$10 million for single/\$20 million for joint filers

10.65% - \$25 million for single earners/\$50 million for joint filers

SECTION 14 & 15: Enhanced DRS Tax Incidence Reporting and Tax Returns Transparency

SECTION 16: DRS Report Requirements for State Tax Gap

I urge the Committee to have the courage to make the right choice and pass House Bill 5673: An Act Concerning The Reformation Of Certain Taxes And Tax Equity.

I ask, What legacy do you want to leave for Connecicut?

Thank you,
Paul X Boudreau
Hamden, CT